

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

5 1. (Currently Amended) An apparatus for retrieving data related to a data cartridge contained in a media storage system, comprising:

10 a cartridge access device operatively associated with said media storage system, said cartridge access device including a cartridge plunge mechanism moveable between a retracted position and an extended position, said cartridge access device retrieving and transporting the data cartridge within the media storage system;

15 a transponder mounted to said data cartridge, said transponder transmitting a data signal containing said data related to the data cartridge;

20 a reader mounted to said cartridge plunge mechanism of said cartridge access device, said reader receiving said transmitted data signal from said transponder; and

25 a controller operatively associated with said reader, said controller operating said reader to activate and query said transponder to transmit said data signal, said ~~control system~~ controller being responsive to said transmitted data signal.

30 2. (Canceled)

 3. (Currently Amended) The apparatus of claim 2 1, wherein said cartridge plunge mechanism further comprises a thumb portion, and said reader is attached to said thumb portion.

35 4. (Currently Amended) The apparatus of claim 1, wherein said controller operates said reader to activate and query said transponder when said cartridge plunge mechanism of said

cartridge access device is positioned in the extended position
so that said reader is adjacent the data cartridge to be queried.

5. (Original) The apparatus of claim 1, wherein said
transponder comprises a passive transponder, and wherein said
5 reader activates said passive transponder so that said passive
transponder transmits said data signal, said reader being
responsive to said transmitted data signal.

6. (Original) The apparatus of claim 1, wherein said
transponder comprises an active transponder.

10 7. (Original) The apparatus of claim 1, wherein said
transponder is a radio frequency identification (RFID)
transponder.

15 8. (Original) The apparatus of claim 7, wherein said RFID
transponder stores up to four kilobytes of said data related to
the data cartridge.

9. (Original) The apparatus of claim 1, wherein said
reader activates and queries said transponder to transmit said
data signal when positioned approximately three millimeters apart
from one another.

20 10. (Original) The apparatus of claim 1, wherein said data
related to the data cartridge includes at least cartridge
identification data.

25 11. (Currently Amended) A method for retrieving data
related to a data cartridge in a media storage system,
comprising:

positioning a cartridge access device adjacent said
data cartridge, said cartridge access device including a
cartridge plunge mechanism moveable between a retracted

position and an extended position;

transmitting a data signal containing said data related to the data cartridge from a transponder attached to said data cartridge; and

5 receiving said transmitted data signal at a reader attached to said cartridge plunge mechanism of said cartridge access device.

10 12. (Original) The method of claim 11, further comprising writing at least a portion of said data related to the data cartridge to said transponder.

13. (Original) The method of claim 11, further comprising activating said transponder.

15 14. (Original) The method of claim 13, wherein said transponder is activated when said reader is positioned approximately three millimeters from said transponder.

15. (Original) The method of claim 13, further comprising deactivating said transponder.

20 16. (Original) The method of claim 11, further comprising forming an air interface between said reader and said transponder, wherein said data is transmitted over said air interface.

17. (Original) The method of claim 11, further comprising querying said transponder to transmit said data.

25 18. (Original) The method of claim 11, further comprising processing said transmitted data signal at a controller operatively associated with said reader.

19. (Currently Amended) An apparatus for retrieving data

related to a data cartridge in a media storage system,
comprising:

~~means for storing said data attached to said data
cartridge;~~

5 ~~means for reading said data positionable adjacent said
means for storing; and~~

~~means for transmitting said data from said means for
storing to said means for reading~~

10 cartridge plunge means operatively associated with
said media storage system for releasably engaging and
transporting the data cartridge within the media storage
system;

means, mounted to the data cartridge, for transmitting
data in response to a query; and

15 means, mounted to said cartridge plunge means, for
generating the query and for receiving transmitted data
from said means for transmitting data.

20 20. (Original) The apparatus of claim 19, further
comprising means for processing said transmitted data operatively
associated with said means for reading.